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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 445
By Clabough (S)

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Sarah Marie Edwards
of Sevier County, 1997 Wendy's High School
Heisman Award winner.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should recognize and honor those outstanding young people in our state who, through their natural talents and unflagging commitment, have achieved excellence in their academic careers, athletics and community endeavors; and

WHEREAS, one such outstanding young person is Sarah Marie Edwards, a Sevier County High School standout and one of only two 1997 recipients of the prestigious Wendy's High School Heisman Award; and

WHEREAS, honored by the Downtown Athletic Club in New York, home of the college Heisman Memorial Trophy, Miss Edwards was chosen from a select group of 10,000 nominees by an esteemed panel of judges, including academic, business and community leaders as well as past Heisman trophy recipients; and

WHEREAS, Miss Edwards and a male recipient from Utah were presented with dual 1997 awards at a Downtown Athletic Club ceremony in mid-December; the two distinguished winners received full membership to the prestigious club, were recognized on ESPN's live telecast of the Collegiate Heisman presentation, and were featured on an ESPN2 High School Heisman program special December 29; and

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WHEREAS, the annual award signifies Miss Edwards' remarkable academic achievement, athletic prowess and exemplary community service; and

WHEREAS, through long hours of diligent study and untiring commitment of time and talent, Miss Edwards has achieved extraordinary academic success, and with a perfect 4.0 grade point average, she has joined the ranks of the elite students of Tennessee and our nation; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her laudable grade point average, Miss Edwards has been the worthy recipient of many academic honors and awards, including the Hugh O'Brien Outstanding Sophomore Award; Miss Edwards has also distinguished herself academically as a member of the Rotary Youth Leadership Conference, Girls' State delegate, and National Honor Society member; and

WHEREAS, Miss Edwards' peers have demonstrated their respect for and confidence in her leadership abilities by electing her class president in three consecutive years; Miss Edwards also represents the interests of her fellow students as Student Council President, American Field Service Secretary/Treasurer, Miss Sevier County High School and Junior Classical Leader; and

WHEREAS, this fine "scholar-citizen-athlete" has also excelled as a basketball player, track, soccer and cross-country star; captain for all four of her high school teams, Miss Edwards has lettered in each of these highly competitive sports three years in a row and was an All-American high school basketball designee; and

WHEREAS, during her estimable high school career, Miss Edwards has also been named All-County in cross-country and track and has received multiple Most Valuable Player accolades in basketball, soccer and cross-country; and

WHEREAS, despite the demands on her time, Miss Edwards also gives unreservedly of her talents to a number of community organizations; she served as President of Special

Olympics, Recycling Coordinator, Nursing Home Coordinator, Arts Festival volunteer, House Building Program volunteer, and Humane Society Board member, and

WHEREAS, Miss Edwards demonstrated her extraordinary dedication to her fellow man and the community she loves by initiating two successful community service programs: the Give Back Program and a Parks Restoration Program; and

WHEREAS, her most recent honor as one of the 1997 High School Heisman Award designees reflects well not only upon Miss Edwards, but also brings great honor to her school, her community and our great state; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her accomplishments, the Sevierville Board of Mayor and Aldermen presented Miss Edwards with a proclamation naming January, 5, 1998, "Sarah Edwards Day," an accolade most befitting this determined young lady, Miss Edwards was also honored by Sevier County and the City of Gatlinburg; and

WHEREAS, Miss Edwards' noteworthy achievements are a great source of pride for her parents, Charles and Patti Edwards, and her loving sisters, Jessie, Maggie and Abi, and brothers, Chuck and John; and

WHEREAS, whether in the classroom, on the field or in the community, Miss Edwards' dedication to excellence is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of this legislative body, and we honor her upon receipt of this recognition; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and congratulate Miss Sarah Marie Edwards of Sevier County High School upon receiving the 1997 Wendy's High School Heisman Award. We recognize her for her academic and athletic achievements and thank her for her dedication to the community and our state. We also wish Miss Edwards well in all of her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final resolving clause omitted from such copy.

